

IN THE CLAIMS:

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

List of Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled.)

Claim 3. (New) A press shell for press fitting a tube end to a fitting body support shell comprising a tubular shell body (18) defined by an inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and an outer substantially right-cylindrical surface (20) each terminating at opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces, said shell body (18) being constructed from one of non-iron metal and non-iron metal alloy, and one of a wax layer and a solid lubricant layer (22) at least partially covering a right-cylindrical surface portion of said substantially cylindrical outer right-cylindrical surface (20) against which pressing forces of a pressing tool are applied for reducing friction during press fitting of the press shell to a fitting body support shell.

Claim 4. (New) The press shell as defined in claim 3 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface portion of the outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18).

Claim 5. (New) The press shell as defined in claim 3 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18) between the axially oppositely facing annular surfaces thereof.

Claim 6. (New) A fitting comprising a fitting body (12) having a support shell (14) for supporting the end of a tube (16) adapted to be connected thereto, a press shell (18) for press fitting of the tube end (16) to said fitting body support shell (14), said press shell (18) including a tubular shell body (18) defined by an inner substantially right-cylindrical surface and an outer substantially right-cylindrical surface (20) each terminating at opposite terminal substantially annular axially oppositely facing surfaces, said shell body (18) being constructed from one of non-iron metal and non-iron metal alloy, and one of a wax layer and a solid lubricant layer (22) at least partially covering a right-cylindrical surface portion of said substantially cylindrical outer right-cylindrical surface (20) against which pressing forces of a pressing tool are applied for reducing friction during press fitting of the press shell to a fitting body support shell.

Claim 7. (New) The fitting as defined in claim 6 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface portion of the outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18).

Claim 8. (New) The fitting as defined in claim 6 wherein the layer covers substantially the entire outer right-cylindrical surface (20) of said shell body (18) between the axially oppositely facing annular surfaces thereof.